



5.6 SCOBY DAM

DESCRIPTION

The Scoby Dam site is one of the newest additions to the County Park System. It is a linear strip of land along Cattaraugus Creek and is a mecca for fishing. The Scoby Dam Park is a passive park that takes advantage of its superb siting on the Creek, including fishing, canoe access, hiking and just enjoying the beautiful scenery.

Scoby Hill Dam is the site of a small turn-of-the-century hydroelectric generating facility on Cattaraugus Creek, and at one time it generated a small percentage of the Village of Springville's electricity. The remaining building is in very good condition, and it and the Dam are listed on the **National Register of Historic Places**. The site affords scenic views of the creek and dam.

Currently, Scoby Hill Road ends at Cattaraugus Creek near the dam. The bridge, which formerly carried Scoby Hill Road across Cattaraugus Creek, was removed after the 1998 summer flooding and there are no plans to rebuild it. The creek bank suffered a great deal of erosion in the June 1998 storm.

LOCAL CONTEXT

This site is at the far southern end of Erie County along the border with Cattaraugus County. Access to this relatively remote site is from Scoby Hill Road just downhill from Route 219 before crossing the Cattaraugus Creek Bridge heading south. Only a few residences are nearby along Scoby Hill Road in this mostly rural location.

CURRENT ISSUES AND PROBLEMS

- *Directional and interpretive signage is lacking for this County facility*
- *No formalized fishing areas are currently available.*
- *Erosion has done much damage to the Creek bank.*
- *Provide safety barriers or landscape buffers to the more dangerous spots along the creek.*

EXISTING PARK FEATURES AND FACILITIES

- *Fishing Access*
- *Trails*
- *Old Dam*
- *Former pump house*
- *Overlook areas*
- *Non-improved canoe launch area / access down to edge of creek.*

MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

The proposed Scoby Dam Park is envisioned as a passive park that takes advantage of its superb siting on Cattaraugus Creek. Proposed improvements include fishing and canoe access; scenic viewing; historic interpretation; and hiking and picnicking. Bank stabilization should be installed to prevent further erosion.

- *The current Erie County Parks System Master Plan supports the general initiatives for the Scoby Dam site as previously recommended under the Joint Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Concord / Village of Springville by Nutter/Trowbridge, May 1999, including park improvements, fishing access, interpretive center, etc.*
- *The proposed future construction of the new bridge crossing over Cattaraugus Creek as part of the expansion of Route 219 will greatly impact the County's Scoby Dam property. Impact will be due to NYSDOT requiring the installation of a temporary construction drive from Scoby Hill Road to the base of the bridge construction site up the creek.*
 - *The current natural setting along the creek with its narrow hiking path will be significantly impacted.*
 - *Opportunities exist for the County once the bridge construction is complete, i.e. having the State project pay for the restoration of the impacted Creek shoreline, design of a nature trail system and restoration of shoreline vegetation. In addition, the state could possibly assist with the funding and installation of additional park features and enhancements, such as improved parking, scenic overlooks with benches, fishing platforms, etc.*
- *Promote this newest County Park as a prime Fishing site along the scenic Cattaraugus Creek.*
 - *Provide improved access to the edge of the creek, as well as possible accessible fishing platforms.*
- *Promote the "heritage" aspects of the site, including the historic dam site, former bridge crossing, geological history, etc. The hydroelectric generating building could be rehabilitated as an interpretive center, and could include restrooms in the future, as funding becomes available.*
 - *Provide new interpretive signage and informational kiosks that tie the park better "into the mix" with other local cultural and historical attractions.*

NEARBY PARKS WITH UNIQUE FEATURES (WITHIN A 5-MILE RADIUS)

Town of Concord:

- Kissing Bridge Ski Resort
A private ski resort
- Concord Community Park

Village of Springville:

- Springville Village Park
- World of Wheels Skate
A privately owned rollerskating facility

Town of Otto, Cattaraugus County:

- East Otto State Forest
A 1,354-acre state reforestation area
- Zoar Valley State Multiple Use Area
A 2,927-acre state park

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- Provide an interpretive “story-line” for the Park’s geological and local history, i.e. How and when the gorge was formed?; When was the area first settled?; What’s the history behind the Scoby Dam? What were some significant historic happenings in the area, or in the park?; What fish species are found in Cattaraugus Creek?; etc.
 - Provide interpretive signs or markers at key historic and natural sites, such as at the Dam, old generating building, former bridge site, etc.
- *The remaining bridge abutment at the foot of Scoby Hill Road could be utilized to develop a viewing platform overlooking the creek, also serving as an ADA accessible fishing platform.*
 - *Provide a more formalized parking layout at the foot of Scoby Hill Road, to maximize the numbers of cars that can enjoy the Creek on the busiest days, i.e. peak fishing times.*
 - *Upgrade existing trail access from the foot of Scoby Hill Road to the area above the existing dam.*
 - *Preserve the beautiful stand of large trees along the bank of the Creek; infill with new tree plantings to assure a long-term sustainability and beauty.*
 - *A “seasonal” canoe launch could possibly be developed from the Creek bank, which is steep in this area but has the potential for a small ramp, which would need to switch back, to launch canoes. Given the shallow depth of water over much of the year in the Creek, it is likely that spring high-water season is the likely use period for this park feature.*

Note: Some of the above information excerpted from the Concord/Springville Joint Comprehensive Plan, as prepared by Nutter/Trowbridge, May, 1999.

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IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES / PARK SPECIFIC ACTIONS

PRIORITY KEY

- S Short Term *(1 - 3 years)*
- M Mid Term *(4 - 10 years)*
- L Long Term *(11 - 20+ years)*
- O Ongoing *(Continuing Efforts each year)*